

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01

IO-03 SP-02 SCCT-01 /036 W
----- 109242

R 301407Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4304

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 5174

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT PINS ET

SUBJECT: BIRU BROTHERS AND NORTHERN SHOA INSURGENCY
(CONTINUED)

REF: ADDIS 4158

1. AMERICAN SOUTHERN BAPTIST MISSIONARIES LIVING IN MENZ, WHO HAD TRANSMITTED LETTER FROM BIRU BROTHERS (REFTEL), DELIVERED ANOTHER HANDWRITTEN NOTE (SAME HANDWRITING -- COPY BEING POUCHED) TO EMBOFF OF APRIL 30 ENTITLED "THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL APPEAL" AND DIRECTED IN PARTICULAR TO INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND UNICEF FROM ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT (EPLF). LETTER REPORTS MARCH 28 CLASH BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN TROOPS AND BIRU BROTHERS' FORCES AND RESULTING GOVERNMENT ATROCITIES. IN REPRISAL FOR DEATH OF SEVEN GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS, LETTER STATES, GOVERNMENT TROOPS KILLED EIGHT CIVILIANS, INCLUDING TWO WOMEN WHO WERE BURNED ALIVE, AND BURNED 200 HOMES.

2. MISSIONARY STATES THAT ALL FACTS CONTAINED IN LETTER ARE TRUE AND, IN FACT, UNDERSTATED. AFTER MARCH 28 INCIDENT, 28 FUNERALS WERE HELD IN HIS AREA AND 286 HOUSES WERE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN
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BURNED. MISSIONARY FURTHER STATED THAT FIVE LOCAL COPTIC PRIESTS

CARRYING THE ARKS FROM THEIR CHURCHES HAD CONFRONTED THE ARMY AND PREVENTED AN EVEN GREATER SLAUGHTER. HE BELIEVES BRIDGE BURNING WHICH PRECIPITATED GOVERNMENT ACTION WAS PUT-UP JOB BY GOVERNMENT.

3. MISSIONARY REPORTED ANOTHER BATTLE TOOK PLACE ON APRIL 22 IN SAME AREA IN WHICH FIVE SOLDIERS AND SIX BIRU FOLLOWERS WERE KILLED. ANOTHER 40-50 LOCAL MILITIA, WHO HAD BEEN COERCED INTO JOINING SOLDIERS IN CAMPAIGN THROUGH THREAT OF BURNING THEIR HOUSES, WERE ALSO KILLED. GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE REPORTEDLY PINCHING IN ON BIRUS, WHO HAVE REDUCED THEIR FOLLOWING TO 50 BECAUSE OF DOOD AND SUPPLY SHORTAGES.

4. EIGHTY GOVERNMENT TROOPS REPORTEDLY NOW STATIONED IN TOWN OF GISHE IN ATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE SECOND "SHIFTA LEADER" LOCATED NEAR THERE WHO HAS KILLED SOME 20 GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS.

5. A SECOND PAIR OF BROTHERS WHO HAD BEEN OPERATING IN MAHAL MADA AREA IN OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT WERE CAPTURED AND INTERNED IN MAHAL MEDA. MISSIONARY REPORTED THAT ONE OF BROTHERS AND SOME OF HIS FOLLOWERS ESCAPED LAST WEEK AND NOW AT LARGE ATTEMPTING TO RAISE MORE FOLLOWERS IN MENZ AREA.

6. COMMENT: IN ACCEPTING LETTER FROM MISSIONARIES, WHICH REACHED THEM THROUGH LEPER PASSING MESSAGE TO MISSIONARY DOCTOR DURING SICK CALL, EMBOFF STATED THAT LETTER WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO STATE DEPARTMENT BUT MAY OR MAY NOT REACH ICRC. LETTER WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AND WE WILL ADVISE ICRC OF ITS CONTENTS ORALLY AND CONFIDENTIALLY.
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, ATROCITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS05174
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750152-0102
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975041/aaaaaatb.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 ADDIS 4158
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIRU BROTHERS AND NORTHERN SHOA INSURGENCY (CONTINUED)
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, ET, (BIRU, TADESSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006